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Washington, D.C.-Upon learning of Bush administration plans to drop Medicaid coverage for 18,000 low-income parents in Minnesota, Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) and Members of the state's Congressional delegation sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt requesting the reinstatement of MinnesotaCare's waiver to ensure healthcare coverage is restored. She released the following statement:

"Eliminating health coverage for 18,000 low-income Minnesotans is totally unnecessary, callous and just another example of a Bush-McCain agenda out of touch with the hardships faced by Minnesota families.

"A stroke of a pen by a Bush bureaucrat could reverse this decision. Unfortunately, Gov. Pawlenty and some Minnesotans in Congress are unwilling to challenge this Republican choice to harm the neediest.

"It will take Democrats to continue to fight to expand SCHIP and make healthcare available and affordable for Minnesota children and their parents."

Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

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